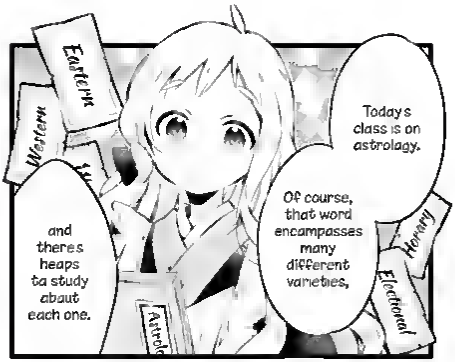
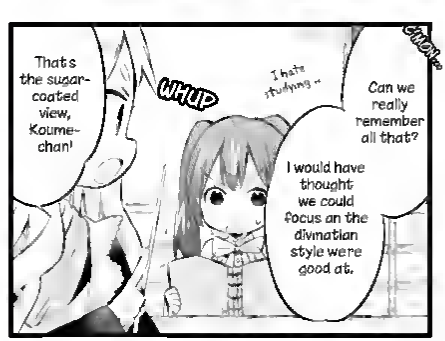
THIS IS A TALE OF LONG AGO
THERE ONCE WAS A GIRL TO WHOM THE FORMLESS GODS GRANTED ARROWS.
"Surely, this bow of mine can pinpoint their true natures."
BUT IN TIME, CURIOSITY OVERCAME THE GIRL.
CURIOSITY ABOUT THE UNSEEN GODS, THE MASTERS OF THE ARROWS.
WITH THOSE ARROWS, THE GIRL POINTED THE WAY FOR LOST WANDERERS.
AS SHE HONED HER SKILLS WITH HER BOW.
THE GIRL BEGAN TO RECEIVE FINER AND FINER ARROWS
WITH THAT THOUGHT, THE GIRL LOOSED AN ARROW AT THE GODS.
BUT TRAGICALLY, THE ARROW FOUND THE GIRL'S BACK INSTEAD
AND PIERCED HER THROUGH THE HEART..

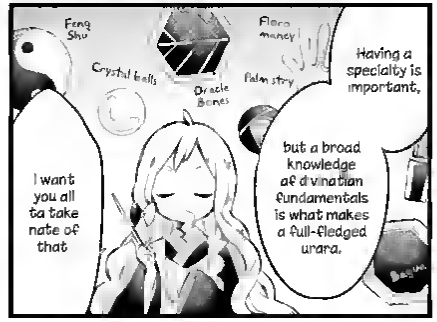
It's all been lectures so far!
Don't worry. Today we're learning a beginner-friendly kind of star divination.
where you'll be performing actual divination.
It will also be your first practical lesson.


Eastern
Western
Today's class is on astrology.
Of course, that word encompasses many different varieties,
and there's heaps to study about each one.
Horary
Electional

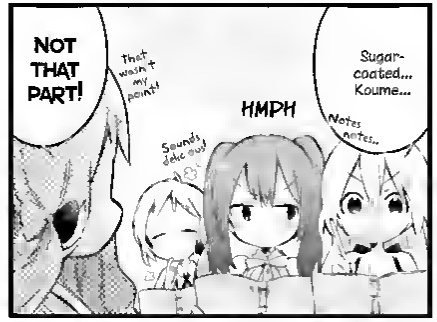
SO THIS DAY HAS FINALLY COME...
THE PRACTICAL URARA TRAINING I'VE DREAMED OF SINCE I WAS A CHILD!
THUMP THUMP
YAY!

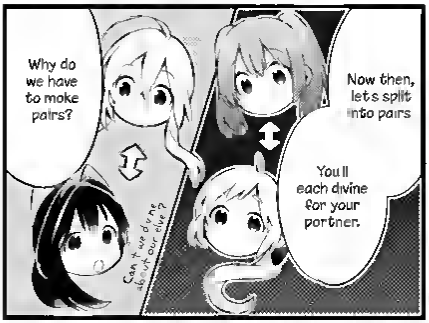

That's the sugar-coated view, Koume-chan!
WHUP
I hate studying...
Can we really remember all that?
I would have thought we could focus on the divination style we're good at.
CHOOSE

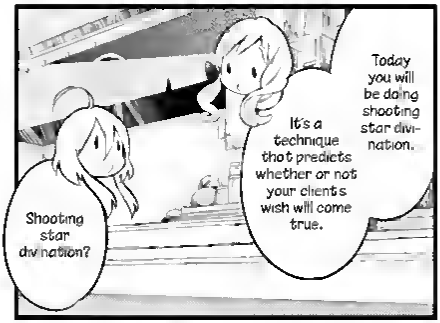
FLINCH
NINA-SENSEI, I EAGERLY AWAIT YOUR RIGOROUS INSTRUC-TION!
I'LL PROVE MY SIGHT, BE IT WITH STARS OR OTHERWISE!
WHACK


Feng Shui
Crystal balls
Oracle Bones
Flora mancy
Palm istry
Having a specialty is important,
but a broad knowledge of divination fundamentals is what makes a full-fledged urara.
I want you all to take note of that

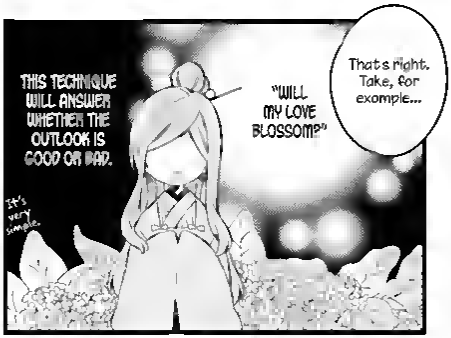
What's she getting all worked up about?
DIZZY
DOOZY


NOT THAT PART!
That wasn't my point!
HMPH
Sugar-coated... Koume...
Notes notes...
Sounds delicious!

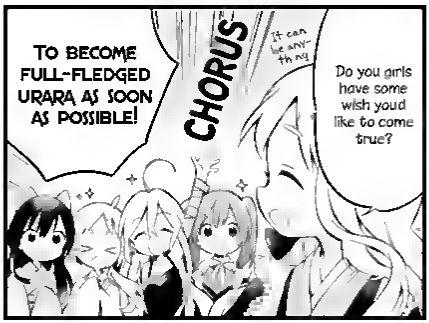

Why do we have to make pairs?
Now then, let's split into pairs
You'll each divine for your partner.
Can I not do one all of us live?


Today you will be doing shooting star divination.
It's a technique that predicts whether or not your client's wish will come true.
Shooting star divination?

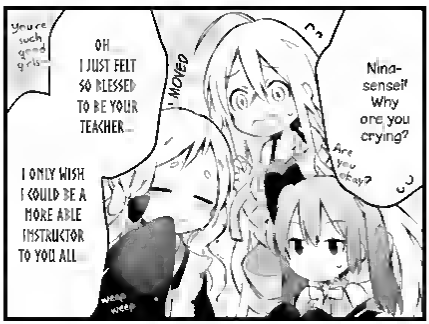
Your heart will be biased.
Everyone wants their own wishes to come true, don't they?
When you divine, you'll end up wishing for the result you won't to see.


That's right. Take, for example...
"WILL MY LOVE BLOSSOM?"
THIS TECHNIQUE WILL ANSWER WHETHER THE OUTLOOK IS GOOD OR BAD.
It's very simple.

Your art will lose its fairness, and may sometimes attract curses.
That's why urara must not divine about themselves
I see...


Do you girls have some wish you'd like to come true?
CHORUS
It can be anything
TO BECOME FULL-FLEDGED URARA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

But Onee-chan, you always divine about whether you'll meet your soulmate—
S-SOME EXCEPTIONS ARE FINE!
You'll all understand eventually.
MMMPH!


Nina-sensei! Why are you crying?
Are you okay?
I MOVED
OH... I JUST FELT SO BLESSED TO BE YOUR TEACHER...
You're such good girls...
I ONLY WISH I COULD BE A MORE ABLE INSTRUCTOR TO YOU ALL...
WAAH WAAH

How strange
We're still in the same, familiar Natsume-ya.

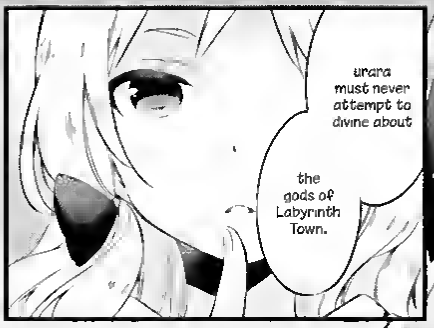
SHOOTING STAR DIVINATION
DARKEN THE ROOM WITH BLACK CURTAINS.
PREPARE A BLACK PAPER LANTERN, INCENSE, AND A CANDLE.

BUT IT FEELS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM A MOMENT AGO.
Before you proceed with your divination,
there is one very important thing I must warn you about.

CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND USE THE BURNING TIP OF THE INCENSE TO MAKE TWELVE HOLES IN THE LANTERN.
AS YOU DIRECT YOUR WISH AT THE LANTERN, FOCUS YOUR MIND.

What I said earlier—that you shouldn't divine about yourself—was mostly a guideline.
However, there is one taboo which urara must never commit.
That is...

Well, is everyone ready?
Then light the candle in the lantern-


urara must never attempt to divine about
the gods of Labyrinth Town.

Four by twelve bright wishing lights
on four sides of this sky of night
From cross this darkened void I pray
that you this dreamer's fate relay.

But if they're freely lending us their power,
the gods of Labyrinth Town must be really nice people!
You think so?
And sure they are people?

Even now, you channel the gods power when you perform your divination.
Should you overstep your bounds and pry into their true natures,
your divination ability will be taken from you forever.

They say there's no such thing as a free lunch, you know.
There must be some kind of catch.
It's an awfully fishy deal

You've mentioned these gods several times already,
but do they even exist?
Oh? You don't believe in them?

SILENCE
Supposedly they're "watching over" us like guardians,
but honestly it's like being spied on, and kinda creep-
Eek! Eek!
Hm?

A myriad of gods, as many as the stars, exist in Labyrinth Town.
You cannot see them or hear them,
but it's said that they're always watching over us urara.
So even when we're bathing?
Or sleeping?

J-JUST KIDDING!
I WAS ONLY JOKING!
Just a bit of humour francis!
My my

SPLASH
EVEN WHEN WE'RE BATHING?!

1, 2, 3
ONCE IT'S CAUGHT FIRE, SLOWLY COUNT TO TWELVE,
4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
THEN SMOTHER THE FLAME WITH THE FIRE BLANKET.

At any rate, just remember that taboo.
Now, let's return to our divination.

You see? Still romantic
If even a single star is left on the remnants of the lantern, the outlook is good.
Supposedly, that is the star which will grant your wish.

Ooh!
How romantic!
We shall now consult the stars about whether your wishes will come true.
But how?

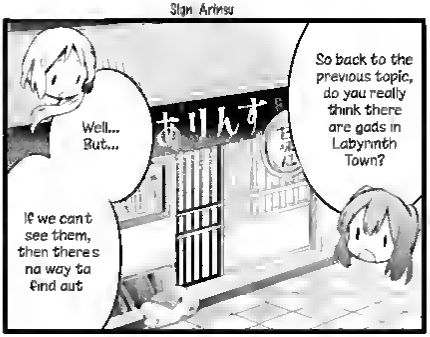
GASP
Meaning if not a single star remains—
then we won't become full-fledged urara?

By setting the shooting stars in this room free.
Gently tilt the candle in the lantern you've so dearly entrusted with your wish—

Erk!
Neither will girls who cheat.

WE'RE BURNING IT?!
This got very primitive all of a sudden.
FLICKER
FLICKER
and light it on fire.
Be careful not to burn yourself!

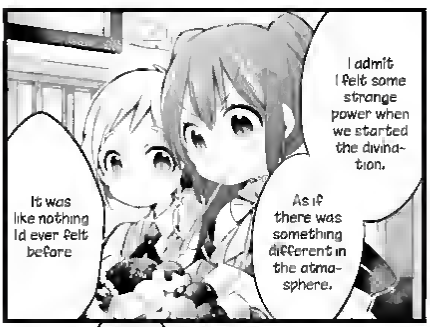
GASP
Chiya?
WATCH OUT, CHIYA!
YOUR HAIR!
It's burning!
SMOLDER
Huh?
Yeah, me too.
All right... I'm lighting mine.
One
two
CRACKLE
three
four
five
six
seven
eight
Oh, my goodness! Quick, put out the–
CHIYA-CHAN, CLOSE YOUR EYES!
fwa-splash!
Huh?
MURMUR
What's happening?
TODAY'S DIVINATION PRACTICE ENDED IN FAILURE.
Impossible to read
For heaven's sake


Sign: Arinsu
So back to the previous topic, do you really think there are gods in Labyrinth Town?
Well... But...
If we can't see them, then there's no way to find out

We messed up the shooting star divination...
SIGH...
Yeah...

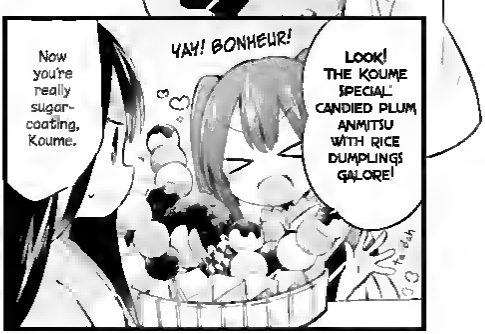
When I was young, I read in a book
about how urara receive their power from the gods,
and about that tabaa as well.

If this is how we start, do we have any hope for the future?
GLOOMY
Sure, I'm disappointed too
There's no use crying over spilled milk.
Come on, you two!


I admit I felt some strange power when we started the divination.
As if there was something different in the atmosphere.
It was like nothing I'd ever felt before

Sign: Traditional Sweets
I know!
It's times like these we need sweets to take our minds off things!
Let's go!

I'VE NEVER EATEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE!
I THINK IT'S SUPER YUMMY!
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
Chiya, what do you think?
Ah...
Right


YAY! BONHEUR!
LOOK! THE KOUME SPECIAL: CANDIED PLUM ANMITSU WITH RICE DUMPLINGS GALORE!
Now you're really sugar-coating, Koume.
The dish

Wow, Chiya. You seem awfully confident.
CLAP
Don't worry! You'll become a full urara, no problem!
Thanks for the food!
I feel like divination...
is a little bit scary.
SMILE
I'm gonna become a first-rank ura, after all!
It's like we've opened a door to a completely unknown world
Like we've wandered into a pitch-black night with no lanterns.
Huh?
A first-rank...
ura?
I'm not sure I'll ever become a full-fledged urara.
Especially after what I did today...
Nono..
don't say that...
MURMUR MURMUR
Life ain't some sugar-coated amm'tsu journey!
A first-rank ura she said.
Wow
AND JUST WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO SPOUT SUCH BIG IDEAS, HUH?!
"BUT OF COURSE!"
Oh, you think so? Thank you, Matsuko-san.
"DON'T SAY THAT, NONO YOU'LL BE FINE"
NONO, YOU'RE A LOT SCARIER THAN DIVINATION!
CLACK
"CHEER UP"

Mother, what are the gods like...?
I asked my mother.
Once, when I was young,
HOOT HOOT
But you know, Kon.
Only the ururu chosen by the gods
Oh, I'm afraid that's not something you should wonder about.
...Chiya.
Kon.
Couldn't sleep?
Yeah, I guess I'm kinda restless.
Do you wish to become such an ururu?
They can hear their voices as well
can see their forms which cannot be seen
It's still a bit chilly at night.
Oh
Hang on.
shiver
...Say, Chiya
What exactly happened during the divination today?
It still smells charred
Much warmer right?

Ha-hah...
aff...
Heh-heh...
I felt...
...Chiya, you just might
have heard the voice of a god.
like I heard something.
Just a very faint voice.
I might have been mishearing, like just now—
What?! No way!
I mean, I could hardly even understand what it was saying.
Chiya.
Like someone was calling my name.
ya
Chiya...
THA—THUMP
THA—THUMP
THA—THUMP
Chiya That's my candied plum
MUMBLE MUMBLE
Im going to become a first-rank ura taa

Good idea! We'll make up for our failure earlier.
YEAH!
Okay! Then let's wish upon a star!
Wish to become first-rank ura!
Kon...
COME ON, SHOOTING STARS!
Right.
Let's become first-rank ura
Let's do it together.
THIRTY MINUTES LATER
This is a secret between the two of us for now.
Sure. Oh, but...
Mm So sweet and yummy
SNOOOORE
U-You can't fall asleep, Chiya
NODDING OFF
the gods might have been listening
They sure might have.
giggle